

From: Jay Greenfield
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/5/02 6:51am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The states contesting the settlement are working at the behest of AOL, Oracle and Sun. They want to constrain Microsoft not because it will help the consumer but because it will help their bottom lines.

Microsoft has not always been an engine of innovation. And its business practices have been too aggressive. Nevertheless, today Microsoft with its .NET initiative and the uses it is putting XML to in the service of this initiative has become a real engine of innovation driving Oracle towards XML, Sun into an embrace of web services and making AOL uneasy. This is a good competitive situation.

Weakening Microsoft significantly would strengthen AOL. AOL is not an engine of innovation. Imagine no Microsoft and just an alliance between Sun, Oracle and AOL. One doesn't have to be a genius to put together a website using Visual Basic and a Windows 2000 Server. Java programming and Oracle administration are much more demanding and expensive.

We need a strong Microsoft to compete with the AOL/Oracle/Sun alliance.